

KANSAS BOOKS NUMBER 750

Collecting Libraries of These
a Big Job

POET AND PROSE WRITERS

Present Some Noted Ones as
Edward Everett Hale

During late years it has become quite a fact among book lovers in the state to collect libraries of Kansas books. Such a collection is both expensive and hard to complete as over 700 books, according to the Topeka Capital, come under the head of Kansas books and many of them are out of print.

Rev. J. W. D. Anderson of Elk City, who did not long ago send perhaps the first note to make a decided effort to assemble a complete "Kansas Library," working jointly with the Kansas Academy and the State Historical Society he collected the most complete list of nearly a thousand Kansas books. In a circular lettered Mr. Anderson designated what were termed Kansas books as follows: "We call any book a Kansas book if it has been written by a resident of the state, or in any way relates to Kansas in its subject matter, or if it has been published within the state." Before his death the collection, known as the "Anderson Library," was presented to the Kansas University at Lawrence. The library is growing but the early literature of the state—the most valuable on account of the fact that much of it was unrecorded and has been forgotten—was gathered together by one who loved the work.

Among the active collectors are E. L. Ackley of Concordia, who receives one of the first copies of every Kansas book published and who is authority on the literature of the Southwest state. George W. Crane of Topeka, to whom belongs the credit of having published Kansas books by Kansas authors and illustrated by Kansas artists, gives special attention to a Kansas library.

In connection with his library, one of the most complete in the state, A. L. Williams of Topeka has a large number of Kansas books. Not only story books and collections of poems come under the list but many volumes of law and school books.

One of the earliest Kansas writers who has become famous was Edward Everett Hale. He visited Kansas and wrote in the interest of immigration. The book was entitled "Kansas and Nebraska: the History, Geography and Physical Position of These Territories; an Account of the Eastern All-Compassing, and Directions to Immigrants." It was published in 1844. This book was soon followed by the "History of the Shawnee Indians" by Isaac McCoy and Henry Harvey who were missionaries to that tribe. The history is from 1601 to 1844.

During the struggle which gave the state the name of "Bleeding Kansas" the New York Herald sent 12, Douglas Brown, an ex-correspondent and his letters from the scene of trouble to his readers were after published in book form. William A. Phillips, another correspondent, wrote "The Conquest of Kansas by Missouri and Her Allies" which was an argument in favor of a free state. Other books were written from the same time. Among them are "Kansas, the Border and Border Warfare," by Mrs. Sarah T. L. Robinson, wife of Governor Charles Robinson. The book ran through many editions and was largely responsible for all received directly by Kansas emigrants from people to England. During the early 50's Thomas H. Glabson, a nephew of William Earl Glabson, was sent to Kansas as a correspondent of the London Times. He wrote a book entitled "The Englishman in Kansas or Squatter Life and Border Warfare." A "Hill Through Kansas" was written by Thos. Westworth Higginson who wrote from Kansas to the New York Tribune over the name of "Westworth."

Richard B. Sewall, the early poet of Kansas, wrote a lively history in the Argonauts around Lawrence and Leavenworth between the free and the anti-free state men. He was a free state man and "with sword and song" to use a quotation from one of his poems, he took part in the struggle. He was one of John Brown's 20 men at Harper's Ferry. He was accused of treason but proved his charges to be false. He committed suicide in Oakland, California, in 1858, and since then his admirers in that place formed an association to build a monument in his memory. His poems were written for the newspapers but Lucy Col. Richard J. Hinton, who was a comrade of Col. Seale's in the early days collected his poems and they have been published in book form by a New York publishing house.

Another of the early Kansas poets was John S. Hunt who lived in Claremont, New Hampshire and wrote many poems concerning the early struggle in Kansas. Among other publications dealing with the early days are Col. Hinton's "Army of the Border," "Civil War on the Border" by Wiley Britton and W. Burke's "Military History of Kansas."

B. W. Wilder, "Annals of Kansas" is out of print and is one of the most valuable books on Kansas history. It is considered an authority and deals with Kansas from the time of Coronado in 1541 to 1888. "Kansas," better known as "The Herd Book" is in demand by all collectors. Nobody knows why or how it was first written out, but nevertheless it contains historical data of early Kansas which are invaluable. Alden's handbook of Kansas is out of print and is eagerly sought for by collectors.

Among the most valuable books is "Some of the Thymes of Ironquill," published by T. J. Keenan in 1881. The collection was the first of the famous Kansas poet published. It was long ago out of print and copies of that edition are worth many times the original price. Another book of Kansas poetry, "Poems by John Preston Campbell," is even harder to obtain than the first edition of "Ironquill." An edition was printed by Crane & Co., and before it could be distributed the printing house burned and with it the entire edition, with the exception of a few copies which had been sent out. Other books by the same author are "Land and Sun and Song," "Mere of McDevon," "My State Immortal," "Queen"

Railroad Time Table

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Ry.	Leave Daily
Kansas City & Chicago Ex.	11:30 a.m.
St. C. Colorado & California Ex.	1:15 p.m.
Wellington Accommodation	2:15 p.m.
St. C. & Chicago Express	10:30 p.m.
Atchison Branch Express	1:30 a.m.
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